[25th February 1948

(*b*) whether the Government has addressed the Union Government in the matter;

(*c*) whether any reply has been received;

(*d*) whether the Government have received representations about re-laying the Bobbili to Salur railway line which was removed during the war; and

(*e*) what action the Government have taken?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) A representation was received in October 1946 from the village committee of Chippurapalli for the retention of the mail train halt at that place.

" (*b*) No. As the Railway Administration is concerned with the stoppage of trains at particular stations, a copy of the petition was forwarded to the General Manager, Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

" (*c*) A reply was received from the General Manager in March 1947 regretting his inability to comply with the request of the petitioners as the daily average number of outward and inward passengers travelling 101 miles and over, was negligible.

" (*d*) Yes.

" (*e*) The proposal for the restoration of the dismantled Bobbili-Salur line has been recommended to the Government of India and their final orders in the matter are awaited."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that Chippurapalli is the headquarters of a taluk, is it not desirable that the mail trains should stop there? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Simply because it is a taluk headquarters, it does not mean that mail trains would be made to stop there; the conditions that should be satisfied are referred to in the answer to clause (*c*) and the fact was that they were not there."

Workers in tanneries.

• 17 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state what steps have been taken to improve the lot of the workers in tanneries?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddi) :—" In 1946, Government appointed a Court of Enquiry to enquire into the conditions of labour in tanneries. Its recommendations were received in May 1947 and were commended to the managements of tanneries for adoption. As a number of employers did not adopt the recommendations and disputes arose with the workers, the matter has now been referred for adjudication."